



## Do You See What I See

'I have a Problem' I've always had it. I think it's physical. It's not Fatal because I'm 82 now. I've always had it. I don't know when it started, Maybe with Christopher Columbus or King Charles the V. Any way I was born with it. I don't know if my Grandfather or my Father had it. When I was living on 14<sup>th</sup> St I had it, I was Five + I didn't know it. When I lived on Severton Ave I was 10 + I had it, It didn't bother me because I didn't know I had it. I couldn't tell anybody about it so nobody knew I had it. It won't go away by itself. The Doctors can't fix it. It's not contagious so I must have always had it. It never Hurts or anything. I probably have it when I'm sleeping. I never knew what I was missing when I was growing up. I had it in the Army, + nobody knew it. To make a Long Story longer, here we go again. Fastforwarding a little bit a Guy I never even knew. Told me what my 'Problem' was. On my Seventeenth Birthday I was going to join the Navy. I passed all the test until I got to the end. He said one last test + you're in the Navy. I said 'Bring It On' Well he did. He opened this Book about the size of this paper I'm writing on. When he opened it up there were two Circles about —

the size of ~~two~~ Saucers. It must have  
 had about a Hundred little Dots about the  
 size of Pennies. He was marking something  
 on my Papers he had. Without even looking  
 at me he said, What numbers do you see?  
 After looking + looking I asked him how  
 big are the Numbers. I thought it was like  
 'Waldo' or something. He said do you see  
 the number 'Eight'. He looked at me + flipped  
 the page + said ~~of~~ OK what's the next  
 number. I thought he was playing a game.  
 He said don't you see the number nine?  
 I was starting to get a little concerned.  
 I said let me see another one. He flipped  
 the page + just pointed to another circle.  
 Finally he closed the book. And with  
 a big Rubber Stamp. He stamped my  
 Papers ~~with~~ 'A-ARMY ONLY'. He said Son you'll  
 have to wait until your Eighteen. The  
 Navy doesn't except any ~~one~~ one that's 'Color  
 Blind'. I couldn't believe it, I ask him  
 can't it be fixed. Can't I get special Glasses  
 or something. He said your Color Blind just  
 live with it. I remember in School they  
 had these Colors in a Circle. The Colors were  
 about the size of Quarters. Yellow - Blue  
 Black - Red - Brown. Orange. I knew  
 Blue - + yellow was brighter than Orange  
 Black was the darkest. Brown was  
 lighter than Black. I memorized ~~them~~ <sup>THEM</sup>  
 + never gave it any thought. I thought

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everybody did that. Now you know what my life long 'Problem' is. I found out one thing. I must have passed it on to Doug & Josh. When I think back as a kid a 'Plane' would be flying over & the other kids would say something like the Red wings or the Red or Green Lights at Dark. I couldn't figure out how they could tell the Colors from way up there. Or someone would have Brown Glasses. It still didn't register with me. All Movies were in Black & White. I told you in another Article about the Girl asking me if I was going to wear my 'Green Pants'. I didn't know they were Green. It was the only pair I had so she wasn't color Blind. I remember when I was living in a Boarding Home & we were in back of the Car going to the Market. It was around Christmas & all the Houses were Decorated with Lights. I didn't know what the big Deal was. All the Lights were either Blue or White to me. I can remember my Mother saying 'Brother' just never learned his Colors. My name was 'Brother'. When Mary & I go for a ride around October she never gets tired of me saying what Color is that ~~one~~<sup>tree</sup>? & he will go with me for quite a while. I'll say show me a Red One & she'll say theres one right there. I'll say you have to tell me what of time. And she'll say we just passed



another one. Every since we have Hunted  
 I'm always the last one bringing up the  
 rear & standing on the last Blood spot. Another  
 thing people can't understand about my  
 'Problem'. They'll point to something - like a  
 Car & say what color does it look like to  
 you. 'Think About It'. What color does it  
 look like, I'll say Either Tan or Green.  
 And they will say - yes you're right you  
 must be Color Blind. Things used to be  
 Green - Brown. Blue & Etc. Now if it wasn't  
 bad enough before. Now they have things  
 like Deep Purple - Peach - Almond - Olive Green  
 Beige - Maroon - Teal - Lime. Orkid you get  
 the idea. I like I say it's not contagious  
 you can't catch it. I was thinking  
 people can 'will' there Bodys, Suppose I  
 did that & some one needed eyes. And if  
 they used mine the poor guy or Woman  
 would sure be suprised when they woke  
 up from the Operation & looked around.  
 Worse than that supposed they only  
 needed one Eye, 'Think about that one.'  
 We were probaly the last people in Dundalk  
 to get Color T.V. I never thought it was  
 that big a Deal. Even now if we  
 are in Best Buys or Walmart I won't  
 say it to loud I'll ask Marge - are they  
 all in Color? And she'll say Keep your  
 voice down & then she'll say 'Yes'. If they  
 have a lot of Blue or Purple or Yellow

I know they are in Color. On a Sunny Day the light at the intersection is Red I can see that, but if the light is Green I + looks like its not working. Red is always on Top + Green on the Bottom. Now the Green lights in Md seem to have a Bluish Tint to them. Can you imagine me saying something has a 'Tint to it'? What gets me, sometime at a store I'll say what color is this one if she is looking for a Blouse or Sweater + she'll just glance at it for a second + say 'no' thats Purple. How can you do that? Dont you have to look at it for a second. Were riding along + I'll say, what color is that Grass + she'll say Thats Green, When we get to the next Field I say - OK - thats Green - OK-?. And she'll say - no - Thats all Brown + burned up. And the Trees could be either Brown or Green. You would think I would give it up. O.K. supposed I would get one new-Eye, would I see Color in one Eye + Black + White in the ~~other~~ other. Another thing I've been <sup>driving</sup> the same Van for Seventeen Years + I still don't know what Color it is. But when I walk out of Walmart or any other Lot. I can pick it out right away. An when I get rolling along the Stop-Signs are Red. Why not make them Blue. Every body can see Blue. Even me. The no parking signs on the Handicapped Parking Places are Blue. And the Support our Troops are yellow.

Another thing. I was driving on Merritt Blvd. I saw a sign saying 'Blue Blocker' Sun Glasses on Sale. The only colors I can see real good are Blue + Yellow. I hope they don't come out with 'Yellow + Blue' Blockers. If I bought a pair I would probably be Leagle Blind. Bear with me on this stuff. I'm not going to talk about colors after this. When you go Deer Hunting, you must wear Blaze Orange or get a Ticket. Why not Blaze Blue or Yellow. We can see them but the Deer can't. Like I said in the beginning, was my Father Color Blind? He Died when I was Ten. When I came out of the Army I was Twenty One. I drove a lot in Germany + Italy but I never needed a Drivers License. I didn't even have a car until I was Twenty Two. I got the Car + I needed a Drivers License. My Father In Law Doc, 'Marry's Father' went with me to 'Motor Vehicles', of course he drove. I knew the Driving + Parking was no problem. But first we had the Eye Test. We were in line + we could see in the Room. A guy in front of me was taking the Test + I saw the Officer flashed these lights on. I guessed he passed + moved on. They were calling me next + Doc already told me the Lights were Amber-Red-Green. I covered one Eye + then the Other. He didn't even look up + pushed the button + said, what Colors do you see? I didn't



even hesitate. I glanced up & said - Amber Red & Green. He stamped my paper & said. C.K. Take Driving Test outside. I'm glad he didn't have different color Bulbs in those lights. Anyway I passed & got my license. That was sixty years ago. I figured it out & we have driven about one million Miles. Everytime we go over the Key Bridge - Bay Bridge - Or Tunnel & the Sun's Shinning I always ask Marge. are the Green lights on, & she'll say 1st or 2nd. Lane. When I'm alone driving I have a little problem so I'm really carefull. Did you ever notice I cant Grill Hamburgers or Steak, someone always ~~has~~ has to tell me when its done. On Hunting trips with a Dim Flashlight Bud or Dave would say 'not yet'. And after awhile they would glance over at my Hamburger & say 'ok' take em off. What a Gift that must be. I know I'll think of other stuff. But thats enough for now

Jim S.,  
I had an afterthought - Does a Person with normal Vision see Colors all the time. On TV live. A Cop will say did you see ~~any~~ any thing & the person would say. It was a Green Buick that hit us & left. So do you Normal Vision People see Colors all the time